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PATENT

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
BEFORE THE BOARD OF APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES**

Application No. : 09/270,673
Confirmation No. : 2804
Applicant : Takahisa Ueda et al.
Filed : Mar. 19, 1999
Title : Annular Sliding Fluoroplastics Member and a Method of
Producing an Annular Sliding Fluoroplastics Member
TC/A.U. : 1772
Examiner : M. Mizzins
Docket No. : UEDA3003CPA/FJD
Customer No. : 23364

REPLY BRIEF ON APPEAL

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA. 22202-3514

Sir:

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

Pursuant to the provisions of 37 CFR 41.41, submitted herewith is
Applicant/Appellant's Reply Brief on Appeal.

The Examiner's Answer issued on June 14, 2007 raises several further issues that require comment.

(1)

In applying Wegner et al., the examiner states on page 4, that:

.....20 or 50 or more weight percent of short fibers by weight of the total amount of said short fibers are oriented in a direction along which a burden of a load is large

citing col. 4, lines 61-68, col. 5, lines 18-27 and 45-50.

These passages were discussed in Applicant/Appellant's Brief in chief. It should further be noted that none of these cited passages support, it is respectfully submitted, the examiner's contention that the fibers "are oriented in a direction along which a burden of a load is large. The examiner's suggestion that these passages do is mere speculation without any factual basis. What a reference fairly teaches is relevant, but speculation is not.

(2)

In applying Runtan et al., the examiner states on page 5 of the Examiner's Answer, that:

wherein overlapping faces of said layers are integrally coupled to one another

citing col. 2, lines 1 - 71.

Col. 1 of Runton et al. lacks, it is respectfully submitted, any discussion of integrally coupled layers. It is not at all clear where in the noted passage, the examiner believes the necessary teaching lies..


(3)

On page 9 of the Examiner's Answer, the examiner states that he "...has not equated the primer 2 with the claimed fibers," instead the examiner refers to the disclosure in "column. 3, line 63 through column 4, line 7 and column 5, lines 49 - 58." At least the passage in col. 5. Lines 49 - 58 does refer to the primer 2, and to the extent that the other identified passages discuss "additives" they too are referring to the primer 2, which is an additive. As noted in the Brief in chief, the primer 2 cannot be equated to the fibers as claimed.

Respectfully submitted

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Date: September 14, 2007


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